

LifeGroup Questions
Based on: James 1:19-17
September 29, 2019

Overview

One challenge in writing Bible lessons is finding application. This is not the case with James 1:19-27. It is full of application. The passage starts out by stating we should be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Take a moment and think about different conversations you have had in which you wished you followed this verse. How many relationships would be restored? How many people would experience forgiveness? If everyone would just do James 1:19 the world would be a different place.

Why be slow to speak, quick to hear, and slow to anger? Believers cannot live the life God desires for us if we do the opposite of this verse. Being quick to speak, slow to hear, and quick to get angry will only leave a path of broken relationships behind us. Instead we are to cast away wickedness and humbly receive the living/active word of God into our lives. The implanted word is a heart changing message not just a head filled with knowledge.

Once your heart is changed with the implanted word then you can become a doer. It is not shocking to say our society is obsessed with the pursuit of knowledge. Sometimes the same can be said of Christianity. Believers can be caught in a cycle of reading, studying, listening, and learning, but never doing. The danger of just learning without doing is that you deceive yourself. James illustrates this point by talking about a mirror.

A hearer but not a doer is like a man who looks into a mirror then forgets what he looks like. A lot of times we can hear a sermon, read a passage in the Bible and get all excited about our relationship with God. Then an hour or day passes and the excitement goes away. This is like the man forgetting what he looks like. We hear, read, and are inspired by the Word of God, but then we just go on with our new found knowledge without doing anything.

James goes on by stating that if believers don't bridle their tongue then their religion is worthless. This goes back to being quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. If you are not someone people want to be around then you won't have an opportunity to be a doer and not just a hearer. Bridle your tongue and look for opportunities to be a doer of God's word. A tangible example of being a doer is visiting orphans and widows. When you do this, God is looking down from Heaven and saying, "This is my child. He (she) is not just a hearer but a doer."

Bible Study: James 1:19-27

1. What are some relational consequences of being slow to hear, quick to speak, and quick to get angry?
2. How can following James 1:19 change your life?
3. Why is it important to be a doer and not just a hearer of God's word?
4. If all you ever do is listen to sermons and read God's word how are you deceiving yourself?
5. James states that if you deceive your heart and don't bridle your tongue then your religion is worthless. This means your religious activities are as productive as chasing your shadow. How can you go about bridling your tongue?
6. James gave two practical examples of visiting orphans and widows. Why do you think he uses these examples of the most vulnerable in society?
7. How can you become a doer of God's word?